

Water issues related to farming in Miami-Dade County

January 8, 2015

The Economic Numbers

- \$660 million in annual sales
- \$2.7 billion annual economic impact
- 20,000 jobs
- #2 county in Florida based on crop value
- #18 in USA based on crop value
- Rank #1 in Florida for snap beans, nursery products, avocados and squash
- #2 in Florida for sweet corn

Water table has been raised which
reduces capacity to accommodate
even modest rainfalls

429 field on October 22 after 0.3 inches of rain



Photo taken:
10/22/2014 9:23 AM

Ground saturation disrupting normal
planting periods/market windows

Accursio South, November 21, 2014



Squash die off Accursio South



L-31 & C-103 12/23/14



Below is a list of November rainfall and departure from normal statistics (in inches) for select locations:

Location (Beginning of Period of Record)	Nov. 2014 Rain	Departure from Normal	Top 10 Rank
Big Cypress - Hendry County	2.81		
Brighton Seminole Campground	3.35		
Canal Point (1941)	1.62	-1.05	
Ft Lauderdale/Hollywood Int'l Airport (1912)	2.92	-0.61	
Fort Lauderdale Beach	2.64		
Fort Lauderdale Executive Apt	2.72		
Hialeah (1940)	2.47	-1.16	
Hollywood (1963)	2.68	-0.73	
Homestead General Airport (1990)	2.33	-0.26	
Immokalee (1970)	1.58	-0.48	
Juno Beach	2.96		
LaBelle (1929)	3.18	+0.98	

Even modest changes in elevation ($< 10''$) mean the difference of plant survival

Zucchini die off with less than 12" change in elevation SW 280 St & 224 Ave



Farms used to be able to absorb a moderate rain during the dry season

429 Farm last February after 1.6 inches of rain



2/13/2014 9:06 AM

Avocados are a good indicator of
water table

Root fungus die off in grove over 30 years old



Dieback consistent with water damage



Surface and sub-surface flooding is creating disease problems in crops

Bacteria in field due to standing water February 2014





Growing conditions have degraded significantly due to the high water table to the extent that the future of agriculture is in doubt in many areas

Contact

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